This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

191123Z Mar 01

CONFIDENTIAL PTO4414

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ACTION AF-00

TNFO LOG-00 NP = 0.0ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 USNW-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 WHA-00 DS-00 EB-00 FAAE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 M - 00AC-01 NSAE-00 PM-00 ACE-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W PMB-00

----D3F678 191127Z /38 FM AMEMBASSY HARARE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8455 INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 001051

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER

LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY

PARTS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: (1.6X5)
TAGS: PGOV MCAP CG ZI RW UG CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN REPORT OF CONVERSATION ON CONGO

WITH ASSISTANT SADC SPECIAL ENVOY

REF: HARARE 1048 (NOTAL)

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CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

- (C) FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT BY CANADIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER IN HARARE RON WILLSON (STRICTLY PROTECT) OF THE SAME CONVERSATION REPORTED IN REFTEL. WILLSON SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL DETAIL, PARTICULARLY ON ZIMBABWEAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE RWANDA-UGANDA RIFT, STRAINS IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ANGOLA IN THE WAKE OF LAURENT KABILA'S ASSASSINATION, INCLUDING THE SUSPICION THE LATTER MAY HAVE HAD A HAND IN IT, AND THE FRENCH ROLE IN THE CONGO.
- (C) [BEGIN TEXT OF REPORT] SUMMARY: ZIMBABWE EXPECTS NEXT MONTH TO START REPATRIATING TROOPS IN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS. IT CLAIMS THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FALLING OUT WITH ANGOLA. IT SEES WESTERN POWERS AS BEING MORE SUPPORTIVE NOW OF THE PEACE PROCESS, BUT BELIEVES RWANDAN SECURITY CONCERNS ARE STILL GIVEN TOO MUCH CREDENCE. SUSPICIONS REMAIN HIGH THAT RWANDA AND UGANDA WILL TRY TO SCUTTLE THE PEACE PROCESS. [END SUMMARY.]
- (C) REPORT: TOGETHER WITH US CHARGE WE MET ON 16 MARCH WITH DAVID HAMADZIRIPI, FORMERLY MFA UNDERSECRETARY FOR AFRICA AND NOW ASSISTANT TO ZIMBABWE'S SPECIAL ENVOY IN KINSHASA. HE HAS BEEN OUT OF KINSHASA FOR PAST MONTH, ACCOMPANYING MINISTER MUDENGE IN LUSAKA AND NEW YORK AND PRESIDENT MUQABE IN BRUSSELS AND PARIS.

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- HARARE 01051 01 OF 02 191126Z (C) HAMADZIRIPI REPEATED MUCH OF WHAT MUDENQE SAID IN BRIEFINQ TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS REPORTED IN OUR WUGROO42 14 MARCH. HE WAS AWARE OF OUR 15 MARCH PRESS RELEASE IN ZIMBABWE AND WAS NOT PLEASED WITH IT, BUT THIS DID NOT DETRACT FROM OTHERWISE FRIENDLY EXCHANGE.
- (C) WHILE ARGUING THAT KABILA WAS KEEPING MUGABE INFORMED, THEIR LAST EXCHANGE HAVING APPARENTLY BEEN IN SIRTE (BUT NOT IN WINDHOEK, WHERE SADC BUSINESS CROWDED OUT EVERYTHING ELSE), HAMADZIRIPI DID ALLOW THAT IN SOME QUARTERS IN HARARE THERE WAS SIMMERING RESENTMENT THAT KABILA HAD NOT YET VISITED HERE BUT WAS ALREADY ON HIS SECOND TRIP TO EUROPE. BY WAY OF JUSTIFICATION, THOUGH, HAMADZIRIPI SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT DOMESTICALLY FOR KABILA TO BE PERCEIVED AS HIS OWN MAN.
- 16. (C) HAMADZIRIPI SAID THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED THAT ZIMBABWEAN TROOPS HAD NOT YET STARTED TO WITHDRAW UNDER PHASE TWO. ORDERS HAD BEEN SENT OUT FROM HARARE TO THE FIELD AND THE WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BEGIN SOON.

MONTH TROOPS WOULD BEGIN TO BE REPATRIATED TO ZIMBABWE, FROM BOTH THE EXTRA TROOPS DISPATCHED AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF LAURENT KABILA AND THOSE BEING PULLED BACK UNDER PHASE TWO. HE SAID MONUC HAD ASKED ALLIED FORCES NOT TO OCCUPY PWETO EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE ENTITLED TO DO SO UNDER KAMPALA AND THE HARARE SUBPLANS. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ZIMBABWE WOULD COMPLY.

17. (C) HAMADZIRIPI AS USUAL REMAINED SUSPICIOUS OF BOTH UGANDA AND RWANDA, THOUGH NOT DISAPPOINTED WITH THEIR FALLING OUT WITH EACH OTHER. UGANDA HAD SO FAR CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 01051 01 OF 02 191126Z WITHDRAWN 550 SOLDIERS, NOT THE TWO BRIGADES IT WAS TOUTING. RWANDA HAD OFFERED TO WITHDRAW 200 KILOMETERS ONLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD SHORTEN ITS OVERSTRETCHED LINES OF RESUPPLY. HE SAID THAT ZIMBABWE TOOK RWANDA'S SECURITY CONCERNS SERIOUSLY, CITING SOME DIRECT BILATERAL EXCHANGES ON THE MATTER, BUT AT THE SAME TIME ESSENTIALLY DISMISSED THEM AS A PRETEXT. WE ARGUED THAT THEY HAD TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. RWANDA'S FIT OF ANGER WITH ZAMBIA FOR ALLOWING SUSPECTED GENOCIDAIRES TO ESCAPE WAS A FURTHER SIGN OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THAT COUNTRY REGARDED THE ISSUE.

18. (C) HAMADZIRIPI
DISMISSED REPORTS THAT SERIOUS
DIFFERENCES HAD EMERGED BETWEEN ZIMBABWE AND ANGOLA IN
THE AFTERMATH OF LAURENT KABILA'S ASSASSINATION. HE
ALSO DENIED THAT ZIMBABWE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION. ZIMBABWE WAS ONLY
THE CHAIR OF WHAT WAS A SADC COMMISSION WHICH INCLUDED
ALL THE ALLIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, HAMADZIRIPI AT ONE
POINT SEEMED TO HINT THAT THE ANGOLANS COULD HAVE BEEN
INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION.

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INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 USNW-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 WHA-00 DS-00 EB-00 FAAE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 VCE-00 M-00 AC-01 NSAE-00 PM-00 ACE-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W

P 191123Z MAR 01 FM AMEMBASSY HARARE TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8456 INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PRIORITY RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 001051

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 19. (C) HAMADZIRIPI SAID THAT THE REASON ANGOLAN ARMED FORCES COMMANDER DE MATOS HAD BEEN SACKED WAS FOR HIS FREE-LANCING WITH UGANDA. HE HAD GONE TOO FAR IN HIS OVERTURES TO UGANDA WITHOUT DOS SANTOS' APPROVAL AND THE PRESIDENT ALSO SAW HIM AS A POTENTIAL RIVAL. ZIMBABWE WAS NOW CONFIDENT THAT ANGOLA HAD "DRAWN A LINE IN THE SAND" AT MBANDAKA AGAINST THE MLC AND UGANDA. ZIMBABWEAN AND ANGOLAN TROOPS WERE WORKING HARMONIOUSLY IN KINSHASA, LUBUMBASHI AND WHEREVER ELSE THEY WERE STATIONED TOGETHER.
- 110. (C) AS FOR THE POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS, HAMADZIRIPI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE US POSITION, WHICH HE PERCEIVES AS HAVING EVOLVED IN FAVORABLE DIRECTION UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. THE UK IS STILL PERCEIVED AS A SPOILER. BELGIUM WAS GOING ALL-OUT TO PLAY A LARGE ROLE, IN CONTRAST TO THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT THERE, WHICH HAD BACKED AWAY FROM AFRICA. BELGIUM WAS OFFERING, FOR EXAMPLE, TO HOST AND PAY FOR THE INTER-CONGOLESE DIALOGUE. HE SAW THE BELGIANS AS BEING SYMPATHETIC TO THE UNARMED OPPOSITION.

HAMADZIRIPI WAS ODDLY RETICENT ABOUT FRENCH POLICY. HE ALLOWED THAT THE FRENCH DID NOT LIKE KAGAME, BUT SEEMED TO PERCEIVE THE FRENCH POSITION AS BEING NOT ENTIRELY FAVORABLE TO THE ZIMBABWEAN POSITION. [END TEXT OF REPORT.]

IRVING

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